INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FOREST RIGHTS & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE: A LEGAL ANALYSIS FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE-RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MADHYA PRADESH

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

by

Garima Pahwa

Registration No. MRULWDN012K240038

Under the supervision of

Dr. Superna Venaik
Associate Professor, School of Law
Manav Rachna University

Department of Law
School of Law

MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY

Year- 2026

MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY

Declared as State Private University vide Haryana Act 26 of 2014

MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY

Date:03/04/2026

DECLARATION BY THE SCHOLAR

I hereby declare that the short synopsis entitled **Indigenous Peoples' Forest Rights & Climate Change Governance: A Legal Analysis For Advancing Climate-Related Sustainable Development Goals in Madhya Pradesh** being submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Law under the School of Law of ManavRachna University, Faridabad during the academic year 2025-2026.

It is the work that is expected to be carried out under the supervision of **Dr. SupernaVenaik.**Further, it is declared that the short synopsis is within the plagiarism limit and a copy of the same is attached as per the University norms.

GarimaPahwa

Registration Number: MRULWDN012K240038

MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY

Declared as State Private University vide Haryana Act 26 of 2014

MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY

Date: 03/04/2026

CERTIFICATE BY SUPERVISOR

This is to certify that, the short synopsis entitled **Indigenous Peoples' Forest Rights & Climate Change Governance: A Legal Analysis For Advancing Climate-Related Sustainable Development Goals in Madhya Pradesh** is an original piece of work done by research scholar Ms. GarimaPahwa under the supervision of **Dr. SupernaVenaik** for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Department of Law under the School of Law of ManavRachna University, Faridabad during the academic year 2025-2026.

Further, it is certified that the short synopsis is within the plagiarism limit and a copy of the same is attached as per the University norms.

Supervisor 4/4/2026

Supervisor:
Dr. SupernaVenaik
Associate Professor,
School of Law
ManavRachna University

iii

CONTENTS

S. No.	Description	Page No.
	Cover Page	i
	Declaration by Scholar	ii
	Certificate by Supervisor	iii
	Table of Contents	iv
	Abstract	v
1	Introduction	1
2	Literature Review	4
3	Rationale/ Significance of the Study	10
4	Problem Statement	11
5	Objectives of Research	11
6	Methodology	12
7	Expected outcome of the Research	12
8	References (APA)	14
9	Similarity Verification Report	17

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FOREST RIGHTS & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE: A LEGAL ANALYSIS FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE-RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MADHYA PRADESH

Abstract

Indigenous Peoples' livelihood is dependent on forest and their traditional knowledge and practices. It plays a vital role in mitigation and adaptation of climate change. However, their contribution remains inadequately recognized within formal climate change governance frameworks. This study undertakes a comprehensive legal analysis of forest rights of indigenous people in Madhya Pradesh with the objective of advancing climate related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 10 of Reduced Inequalities and SDG 13 of Climate Action. The climate change is phenomenon affecting worldwide and impacting both developed and developing countries. Climate Change has caused unprecedented change in flora and fauna with a devastating effect on the environment jeopardizing the livelihood and social structure of indigenous people. This study adopts a mixed doctrinal and non- doctrinal methodology. It will explore the multitudinous correlation between Indigenous people of Madhya Pradesh and climate change, analyzing the challenges and hurdles that they have encountered while mitigating and adapting the intensified situation caused by climate change.

This study examines the tribes of Madhya Pradesh particularly *Bhil* and *Gond* as the *Bhil* is the largest tribe of Madhya Pradesh and *Gond* is the second largest tribe constituting 70% population of Scheduled Tribes of Madhya Pradesh. These tribes adopt climate resilient agricultural practices, flood protection and predictions of change in weather which helps them to adapt to climate change. However, these tribes face challenges and inability to mitigate without participation in governance and policy framing. The researcher will examine the integration of indigenous knowledge with the climate based SDGs to mitigate and frame adaptation strategies in a policy. Additionally, there is a complex vulnerability which indigenous people face emphasizing their relation with biodiversity, cultural heritage and natural resources for their sustainability and survival. Moreover, this research will examine the role of the representation of Indigenous People in policy framing and climate governance.

Keywords: Mitigation, Indigenous People, Adaptation, Climate Change, SDGs

INTRODUCTION

Climate Change is one the most challenging issue of environment that people all over the globe are confronting. Climate Change phenomenon is characterized by high rise in temperature of the Earth, irregular rain patterns and precipitations, extreme conditions of weather which altogether cause loss of flora and fauna. This phenomenon has great implications on sustainability of economy, sociology and ecology across the world. Both developed and developing countries are affected by climate change but the most vulnerable and affected are marginalized communities which are close to the nature. The Indigenous communities are particularly affected by the climate variations due to close socio economic and cultural relationship with environment and ecosystem.

Indigenous communities maintain a symbiotic relationship with flora and fauna since immemorial times. They have developed complex systems of traditional ecological knowledge passing on generation to generations with interaction with forests. The system of traditional knowledge comprises of sustainable agricultural practices, water management strategies, weather forecasting with help of indigenous methods, biodiversity's conservation and other changes. Practices of indigenous community have gained recognition in environmental stewardship and policy discourse for the purpose of adaptation and mitigation of climate change. These practices have helped in adapting climate change and environmental variations. For the purpose of adaptation and mitigation of climate change, the role of indigenous people has been recognized in policy discourse.

The Indigenous Peoples are recognized as Scheduled Tribes in the Constitution of India. They constitute an important part in cultural and demographic diversity in India. The "estimated population of Scheduled Tribes in India is 8.6% approximately of total population as per the Census of India 2011". These communities largely reside in ecologically sensitive regions and forests. They are closely interconnected with forest and its resources. Around "100 million people in India depend on forestry for livelihood and forest ecosystems. It highlights the critical role of the community in conservation of environment and impact of climate change on them as well others".

The State of Madhya Pradesh is often referred as the heart of India as it has particular intersection of indigenous forest rights and climate change governance. It possesses of 77000 square kilometers of forest area which constitutes the largest forest cover in India[1]. The forest cover are vital in nature as it supports carbon sequestration, regularize climate change and conserves flora and fauna. On the same hand, the state also consists of highest number of tribal population in the country constituting 20% of total population of Madhya Pradesh. This feature makes it important region to study tribe rights and forest governance and sustainability.[2] The most prominent tribal communities of the state are *Bhil*, *Gond* and *Baiga*.

The *Bhil* community represents the largest tribal groups, while the *Gond* Tribes constitutes second largest tribe. They maintain the deep culture, economic and spiritual connection with the forest ecosystems.[3] Over centuries, these communities have developed indigenous practices of resource management that promote utilization of natural resources while maintaining ecological balance.[4]

The indigenous communities practices traditional practices that involves mixed cropping patterns, cultivation of climate resistant indigenous varieties and organic use through soil fertility and less environmental degradation. Despite the significant contribution of them, these communities role in formal climate resilience and governance frameworks is inadequately recognized. This exclusion has resulted in the marginalization of indigenous communities and erosions of customary rights over forests and natural resources.[5] Consequently, climate policies and environmental governmental frameworks effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation strategies becomes less.[6]

The Constitution of India contains several provisions aimed to protect tribal communities and environment. Article 46 directs the State to promote the educational and economic interests of

[1] Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA). (2022). Madhya Pradesh Sushasan and Development Report 2022. Government of Madhya Pradesh.
[2] *Ibid*.
[3] Ministry of Tribal Affairs. (2013). Statistical profile of scheduled tribes in India. Government of India.
[4] "Gadgil, M., Berkes, F., & Folke, C. (1993). Indigenous knowledge for biodiversity conservation. Ambio, 22(2–3), 151–156."
[5]Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2022). Climate change 2022: Impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability. Cambridge University Press.
[6]World Bank. (2021). Indigenous peoples and climate change: From vulnerability to resilience. World Bank Publications.

Scheduled Tribes and protect them from exploitation. Article 244, read with the Fifth Schedule, provides special administrative arrangements for tribal areas to safeguard their land and resource rights. In addition, Article 48A directs the State to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife, while Article 51A(g) imposes a fundamental duty upon citizens to protect and preserve the natural environment. The statutory frameworks governing forest resources in India has evolved over time through legislations. The most significant legislation after the various developments in context of rights of indigenous communities for forests is "the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006".[7] This legislation aims to rectify historical injustices faced by forest-dwelling communities by recognizing their forest land rights as an individual and community and resources. This legislation aims to "rectify historical injustices faced by forest-dwelling communities by recognizing their forest land and resources for individual and community."[8] The Act empowers Gram Sabhas to play a central role in the identification and management of community forest resources, thereby promoting participatory forest governance.

The legislation of the "Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 enables greater autonomy to Indigenous communities to participate in decision making related to natural resources and local governance that enables Gram Sabha in Scheduled Areas." The international framework on global developments, the decision making in climate governance is closely linked with achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. The Sustainable Development Goals 10 and 13 that are related to reduced inequalities and climate action respectively. These SDGs emphasize on the need of equal participation of marginalized communities and inclusive governance policies for addressing climate challenges.[9] These challenges can be addressed by strengthening indigenous forest rights and integrating traditional ecological knowledge into climate adaptation strategies. This can contribute significantly to achieve these SDGs by enhancing sustainability of environment, community resilience and encouraging social equity.

The present research seeks to examine the interface and interaction between indigenous forest rights and climate change through a comprehensive legal analysis with reference to tribes of

[7] "Ministry of Tribal Affairs. (2007). The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rules. Government of India."
[8] Ibid.
[9] United Nations. (2015). "Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development"

Madhya Pradesh to mitigate and adapt climate change. This study particularly focuses on the communities of Bhil and Gond to explore and study their traditional knowledge systems and their contribution to climate mitigation and adaptation practices. Additionally, the research aims to analyses the effectiveness of existing legal framework in recognizing and protecting indigenous and forestry rights of indigenous communities.

By integrating doctrinal legal analysis with empirical investigation, the study aims to bridge the gap between statutory framework and ground-level realities. The research seeks to contribute to the evolving discourse on climate justice and environmental governance by emphasizing the critical role of indigenous peoples as custodians of forest ecosystems and key stakeholders in climate action. Strengthening indigenous forest rights and integrating traditional ecological knowledge into legal and policy framework can provide more inclusive and sustainable solutions. There are challenges that are posed by climate change while safeguarding the livelihoods, cultural heritage, and ecological stewardship of indigenous communities in Madhya Pradesh.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The researcher reviewed numerous literatures in the course of the study which has contributed towards developing a sound and relevant understanding of the topic. This section discusses a few key literature reviewed.

Research Papers/ Articles

- **"Indigenous Knowledge System towards Sustainable Livelihood in Achieving Sustainable Development: An Anthropological Study in Madhya Pradesh by Debashis Debnath (2024)"[10],** demonstrates in its anthropological study Baiga, Bhariya and Sahariya PVTGs of Madhya Pradesh expresses interlink between indigenous knowledge system and their sustainable livelihood and forest management systems. This study highlights the traditional practices which contribute to climate resilience such as Crop diversification, Soil and water conservation and traditional medicinal systems. The

[10] "Debnath, D. (2024). Indigenous knowledge system towards sustainable livelihood in achieving sustainable development: An anthropological study in Madhya Pradesh. Indian Journal of Anthropological Research, 3(2), 207–224."

limitation of empirical assessment of international commitments applied into tribal governance realities and weak link between SDG local institutions like Gram Sabha. It further highlights that integrating indigenous knowledge with development policies can strengthen community participation, conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable livelihood. The study concludes that recognizing and protecting indigenous people and their knowledge systems is essential for achieving sustainable development goals while ensuring well-being of tribal communities.

- **"Revitalising Indigenous practices employed by farmers to reduce agriculture's vulnerability to climate change: a systematic review" by Y. Y. Legide, G. S. Feyissa, and T. M. Karo, 2024"[11]-** This is a systematic literature review centered to analyse traditional strategies used by small scale farmers in Africa to counter climate impact on agriculture. It examines the practices across diverse agro-ecological zones and focusing on their roles for vulnerable indigenous groups reliant on rained farming. It mentions that farmers employ diversification in livelihood, integration of crop and livestock, local forecasting which involves adjusted planting calendars and soil moisture techniques like zai pits and mulching. These low cost, context specific methods of traditional methods are used by farmers to enhance climate resilience but have certain limitations like poor documentation of methods and results, less interest of youth, transfer of generational knowledge loss and limited scientific integration.

- **"Human Rights: Safeguarding the Rights of Indigenous People in India by Nabanita Dutta 2024"**:[12] The literature examines the legal and human rights framework governing indigenous communities in India and their struggles within both international and domestic normative regimes. This study highlights impact and role of international instruments such as United Nations Frameworks particularly UNDRIP and ILO Convention No 169 which establish standards relating to self-determination, land rights, cultural preservation and participatory governance. However, the emphasize is on strong

[11] Legide, Y. Y., Feyissa, G. S., & Karo, T. M. (2024). "Revitalizing indigenous practices employed by farmers to reduce agriculture's vulnerability to climate change: A systematic review. Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences, 14(2), 400–414"

[12] Nabanita Dutta. (2024). Human Rights: Safeguarding the Rights of Indigenous People In INDIA. Redshine Archive, 13(1). https://doi.org/10.25215/1304424138.03

normative backing and implementation of these frameworks, it largely depends on state commitment and domestic legal incorporation. In Indian Context, constitutional safeguards for Scheduled tribes affirm action policies and protective land legislations. This research highlights the structural inequalities, displacement due to development projects, inadequate representation politically and weak enforcement mechanisms. A persistent gap exists between formal recognition of indigenous rights and their practical application of knowledge. Furthermore, the lack of empirical engagement data on indigenous knowledge systems and institutions contribute to sustainable development outcomes.

- **"Geographies of knowledge creation in forest rights claims-making processes among Indigenous communities in Central India *Tikli Loivaranta Land Use Policy,* 2023, vol. 131, Issue C"[13]-** The paper conducts a qualitative analysis of knowledge creation geographies during Forest Rights Act claims processes in three Indigenous villages in Madhya Pradesh, India. It traces the journey from Forest Rights Act 2006 and found out that one village was unable to obtain these and villagers faced several difficulties. The difficulties includes complicated legal language in the law, lack of understanding between villagers and forest officials, and long distances to government offices where paperwork had to be submitted.. The study also highlighted the role of NGOs in helping communities. The NGOs played an important role in bridging gap between local people and officials. The research explains that when communities clearly understand their rights and receive support in dealing with government systems. This strengthens the control over forests and helps in protecting future land encroachments.

- **"Grounding Our Work in What Has Come Before: A Review of Indigenous-led Climate Declarations and Reports" 2019[14]** synthesizes over international declarations and reports of over four decades (1992-2019) across international contexts. It structures analysis around four questions on understanding climate crisis, indigenous leadership and values, shortcomings of current policies and solution for climate. This study

[13] Loivaranta, T. (2023). Geographies of knowledge creation in forest rights claims-making processes among Indigenous communities in Central India. Land Use Policy, 131, 106706.
[14] "International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs. (2019). Grounding our work in what has come before: A review of Indigenous-led climate declarations and reports.".

highlights that Indigenous People have long emphasized the protection of land, forests; water and biodiversity as center to address climate change. This report emphasizes on rights and decolonization but does not operationalize mechanism for integrating indigenous practices into formal climate policy. The report also argues that Indigenous communities should be actively included in climate policy and decision making processes because their traditional knowledge contributes in adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

- **"Climate Change Adaptation through Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom: Evidence from Satna District of Madhya Pradesh" the Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, 2018"**[15] This research examines farmers' perceptions of climate variability and their adaptive responses in Bhargawan village of Satna district under the NICRA initiative. The study collected 150 farmers using Participatory Rural Appraisal tools and supported by meteorological and production data emphasizing on the strong convergence between local perceptions and scientific climate records. The shifts in climate have adversely effects on both Kharif and Rabi crops leading to pre mature flowering in wheat, decline in yields and increased pest and diseases. It further studies the interconnection of climate change and rural livelihood. It focuses on the role of traditional ecological indicators in weather forecasting and adaptation planning. Adaptive strategies for short team and drought tolerant for crops cultivation and reduced use of water in farming demonstrate a blend of indigenous knowledge and scientific intervention. This paper contributed in micro level climate governance with validation of data collected by empirical study but still remains geographical limitation and largely perception based.

REPORTS

- **"Indigenous Peoples Resilience Executive Summary (2024)"**[16] examines the internal andexternal enablers and drivers of indigenous people. This research seeks to address

[15] Sharma, N., & Singhvi, R. (2018). Consumers' perception and behaviour towards organic food: A systematic review of literature. Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, 7(2), 2152–2155.
[16] World Bank. (2024). Understanding and building Indigenous peoples' resilience to climate shocks: Executive summary. World Bank.

knowledge gap and sectoral programs and policies that directly and indirectly determine the drivers and enablers of resilience of indigenous people. It emphasizes on how climate change affect indigenous people even they contributed least in crisis of climate change.It highlighted the six principles of indigenous resilience i.e. Indigenous Peoples are Historically Resilient; Right Holders; Unique World Views and Values; Demonstrates high capacity for adaptation and hybridity; Process Legitimacy and Dialogue are critical and recognize and support roles of Indigenous women and youth. This framework serves as a practical guide to development community that is recognizing Indigenous People as critical partners in conserving ecosystem of world and addressing climate challenges.

- **"The Risks and Threats of 'Nature-based Climate Solutions' for Indigenous Peoples" by Indigenous Climate Action led by Rebecca Sinclair and in collaboration with Dr. Jen Gobby and Sarah Hanson"[17] 2021.** This study ensures that the Nature based Climate solution which seems to be promising new direction in climate policy and appear to be yet a false solution. The Nature based Climate solutions using forests, wetlands and soils to capture and store carbon pollution which continues the commodification of nature and is driven by the climate crisis. The replication of problems is seen with previous carbon offsetting schemes and conservation of mainstream. This is violation of our rights and theft of our lands. The economic opportunities that helps to make money from 'sequestering carbon' on indigenous lands pushes the commodities instead of helping community to empower economically. The corporate bodies and government have been extracting the oil, minerals and cutting of trees. This paper highlights that the corporate bodies and the government who has harmed the environment in name of development and now is looking for support of nature based climate solution.

- **"Climate change in Madhya Pradesh: A compendium of expert views by Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation Madhya Pradesh State Climate Change Knowledge Management Centre,[18] 2014**:" The report provides a comprehensive overview of climate change challenges and adaptation strategies in

[17] Indigenous Climate Action. (2021). The risks and threats of "nature-based climate solutions" for Indigenous peoples (Sneak peek report). Indigenous Climate Action.
[18] "Climate and Development Knowledge Network. (2014). Climate change in Madhya Pradesh: A compendium of expert views."

Madhya Pradesh. "It emphasizes that climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a major development concern as large proportion of the population depends on climate sensitive sectors like forestry, natural resources and agriculture for livelihoods. The report discusses the State Action Plan on Climate Change which was developed through multi stakeholders' process and participation which involves agencies, academic institutions, government and local communities. It examines sector specific impact of climate change on forests, rural livelihood and livestock, health and gender. It highlights the importance of incorporating local traditional knowledge and decentralized planning mechanisms to address vulnerabilities and encourage adaptive development strategies within Madhya Pradesh. It also emphasizes on the need for integrated policy approaches that strengthen climate resilience through sustainable natural resource management and community participation."

BOOKS

- **"Old ways for New Days Indigenous Survival and Agency in Climate Changed Times by Melissa Nursey- Bray, Robert Palmer, Ann Marie Chischilly & Phil Rist by Springer Briefs in climate studies 2022"[19]-** This book examines the role of indigenous communities in responding to climate change by highlighting their knowledge system and adaptation practices. The author argues that frameworks dominantly on climate governance often portrays indigenous peoples' as victims, ignoring their history of resilience and environment stewardship. The book highlights on the dynamic traditional ecological knowledge that has enabled indigenous people to respond the climate changes and adapted it across generations. The case studies from different regions like Australia, China and the United States demonstrates how the indigenous knowledge that is culturally embedded in practices, local ecological knowledge and environmental transformations. The book also criticizes mainstream policy structures and climate communication for calling out integrated and inclusive governance models that recognizes indigenous perspectives and agency. It also recognizes indigenous climate adaptation strategies.

[19] Nursey-Bray, M., Palmer, R., Chischilly, A. M., & Rist, P. (2022). Old ways for new days: Indigenous survival and agency in climate-changed times. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-90966-0

- **"Indigenous Knowledge for Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation 2018 edited by Douglas Nakashima, Igor Krupnik, and Jennifer T. Rubis"[20] -** The book explores the role of indigenous knowledge systems in understanding and responding to climate change. The author argues that indigenous communities have long standing ecological knowledge developed through interface between natural environments which enables them to observe environmental changes and adaptive strategies. This book has interdisciplinary contributions by Indigenous experts, and scientists, which presents case studies from different regions such as small islands and mountainous areas demonstrating how indigenous observation of weather, seasonal patterns and biodiversity contribute in study of climate change. The study emphasizes that traditional knowledge complements scientific data of climate and improve policies of adaptation. The work also highlights the integration of indigenous perspectives into worldwide climate change governance and policy making.

Relevance of Study

This study is important because it focuses on communities whose voices are often left out of climate discussions, despite their close relationship with forests and nature. Indigenous groups like the Bhil and Gond in Madhya Pradesh have, for generations, followed practices that naturally support climate balance and help them cope with environmental changes. However, their knowledge is rarely acknowledged in formal laws and policies. By examining their forest rights and lived experiences, this research highlights the need to include them in decision-making processes. It also connects their role to broader goals like reducing inequalities and addressing climate change in a more inclusive way. Overall, the study helps bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and modern governance, while also emphasizing the importance of protecting their livelihoods, culture, and environment in a changing climate.

[20] Nakashima, D., Krupnik, I., & Rubis, J. T. (Eds.). (2018). Indigenous knowledge for climate change assessment and adaptation. Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316481066

Problem statement

The indigenous communities at Madhya Pradesh despite of constitutional and statutory recognition experiences gaps in assessing forest resources and participation in forest and climate governance. The existing climate governance frameworks do not adequately integrate or protect indigenous knowledge, participation or policy making. In existing laws and frameworks Indigenous Communities are treated as respondents only and not participants. This gap limits the ability of indigenous people to contribute in climate mitigation and adaptation which weakens the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Research Objectives

1. To examine the role of indigenous knowledge systems of *Bhil* and *Gond* tribes of Madhya Pradesh in climate change mitigation and adaptation practices.

2. To critically analyses the forest and tribal welfare laws and policies, international and national frameworks, and practical implementation in climate governance.

3. To assess the participation of indigenous communities and integrating traditional ecological knowledge to contribute in achieving SDGs 10 and 13 related to reduced inequalities and climate change respectively.

4. To suggest a legal and institutional framework at national level for enhancing indigenous led climate governance and effective environmental justice.

Research Questions

1. Whether the traditional ecological knowledge systems and practices that are followed contribute to climate change mitigation by tribes in Madhya Pradesh?

2. What is the effectiveness of existing international and national legal and policy frameworks implemented for climate governance?

3. Whether the indigenous practices can be integrated into climate related SDGs and effectively achieve synergy between traditional knowledge systems and formal climate policies?

4. What legal institutional reforms can strengthen the development of inclusive governance frameworks for climate action?

Hypothesis

Integration of indigenous knowledge with effective implementation of forest and tribal welfare laws strengthens climate governance and supports the achievement of SDGs 10 and 13 in Madhya Pradesh.

Research Methodology

The research would rely on empirical research methodology to examine the relationship between indigenous forest rights and climate change governance in Madhya Pradesh. Primary data will be collected through structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews with tribal households, community leaders, and Gram Sabha members**,** whereas secondary sources includes national and international statutes and conventions, articles, research journals, books , reports, summaries and other web sources.

A uniform style American Psychological Association citation is followed throughout the study.

Expected Outcome of Research

The present research is expected to contribute to the discourse on indigenous rights, climate resilience and environmental governance by providing a comprehensive legal analysis of forest rights of indigenous communities in Madhya Pradesh and role in advancing climate related Sustainable Development Goals. The study is expected to highlight the significant role played by indigenous communities in forest conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation through their traditional knowledge and practices. The research critically examine the effectiveness of existing legal frameworks including “the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996,” and other environmental legislations, in ensuring the protection

and participation of indigenous communities in forest governance and climate policy implementation. Furthermore, the empirical assessment of the research provides valuable insights in experience of tribes *Gond* and *Bhil*. The study aims to generate policy oriented recommendations for “integrating indigenous knowledge systems” into “climate governance frameworks”. The research aims to contribute towards strengthening inclusive environment and promoting climate related Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

REFERENCES

STATUTES

1. The Constitution of India

2. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006

3. The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

1. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

2. The 2030 agenda for sustainable development

RESEARCH PAPERS/ ARTICLES

1. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA). (2022). Madhya Pradesh Sushasan and Development Report 2022. Government of Madhya Pradesh.

2. Ministry of Tribal Affairs. (2013). Statistical profile of scheduled tribes in India. Government of India.

3. Gadgil, M., Berkes, F., & Folke, C. (1993). Indigenous knowledge for biodiversity conservation. Ambio, 22(2–3), 151–156.

4. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2022). Climate change 2022: Impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability. Cambridge University Press.

5. World Bank. (2021). Indigenous peoples and climate change: From vulnerability to resilience. World Bank Publications.

6. Ministry of Tribal Affairs. (2007). The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rules. Government of India.

7. Ministry of Panchayati Raj. (1996). The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.

8. United Nations. (2015). Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development

9. Debnath, D. (2024). Indigenous knowledge system towards sustainable livelihood in achieving sustainable development: An anthropological study in Madhya Pradesh. Indian Journal of Anthropological Research, 3(2), 207–224.

10. Legide, Y. Y., Feyissa, G. S., & Karo, T. M. (2024). Revitalizing indigenous practices employed by farmers to reduce agriculture's vulnerability to climate change: A systematic review. Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences, 14(2), 400–414

11. Nabanita Dutta. (2024). Human rights: safeguarding the rights of indigenous people in India. Redshine Archive, 13(1). https://doi.org/10.25215/1304424138.03

12. Loivaranta, T. (2023). Geographies of knowledge creation in forest rights claims-making processes among Indigenous communities in Central India. Land Use Policy, 131, 106706.

13. International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs. (2019). Grounding our work in what has come before: A review of Indigenous-led climate declarations and reports. International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs.

14. Sharma, N., & Singhvi, R. (2018). Consumers' perception and behavior towards organic food: A systematic review of literature. Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, 7(2), 2152–2155.

BOOKS

1. Nursey-Bray, M., Palmer, R., Chischilly, A. M., & Rist, P. (2022). Old ways for new days: Indigenous survival and agency in climate-changed times. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-90966-0

2. Nakashima, D., Krupnik, I., & Rubis, J. T. (Eds.). (2018).

Indigenous knowledge for climate change assessment and adaptation. Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316481066

REPORTS

1. World Bank. (2024). Understanding and building Indigenous peoples' resilience to climate shocks: Executive summary. World Bank.

2. Indigenous Climate Action. (2021). The risks and threats of "nature-based climate solutions" for Indigenous peoples (Sneak peek report). Indigenous Climate Action.

3. Climate and Development Knowledge Network. (2014). Climate change in Madhya Pradesh: A compendium of expert views

4. Ministry of Tribal Affairs. (2013). *Statistical profile of scheduled tribes in India*. Government of India.

WEBSITES

1. www.fao.org

2. www.unesco.org

3. www.unfccc.int

4. www.tribal.nic.in

5. www.moef.gov.in

MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY
Declared as State Private University Vide Haryana Act 26 of 2014

No. MRU/SVLRC/LIB: 03/04/....2026

Swami Vivekananda Library and Resource Centre
Manav Rachna University

SIMILARITY VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE

Title: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FOREST RIGHTS & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE: A LEGAL ANALYSIS FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MADHYA PRADESH

Researcher: GARIMA PATWA Registration Number: MRULWAN012K240038

Supervisor: DR. SURERNA VENAIK Department: LAW

This is to certify that the above mentioned Short Synopsis/Thesis was scanned for similarity index through Drill Bit.....Software on 31-03-2026 with submission ID 5404238.. and the similarity index was found to be .....5.....%. The complete report running into .18.. Pages, 4617....Word count with File Size ..1220..KB is being forwarded to the Research Supervisor/DRC/DRB for review.

The complete report of the above Short Synopsis/Thesis has been reviewed and the similarity index including AI-based writing tools are below the accepted norms as per the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations 2018. The Short Synopsis/Thesis may be considered for further processing.

Swami Vivekananda Library and Resource Centre * Manav Rachna University
3/4/2026

Research Scholar

Supervena 3/4/26
Research Supervisor
Dr. Supervena Venaik

Library

Excluding matches less than 14 words

Excluding matches less than 14 words

Swami Vivekananda Library and Resource Centre * Faridabad * Manav Rachna University
3/4/2026

Garima Pahwa 3/4/26 Supervisor Verified

DrillBit

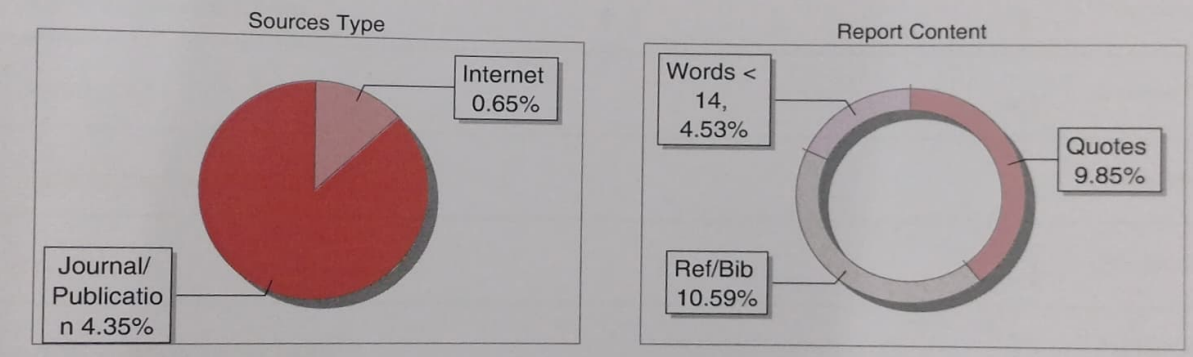
The Report is Generated by DrillBit Plagiarism Detection Software

Submission Information

Author Name	Garima Pahwa
Title	Short Synopsis
Paper/Submission ID	5404238
Submitted by	netrapal.library@mru.edu.in
Submission Date	2026-03-31 12:00:50
Total Pages, Total Words	18, 4617
Document type	Synopsis

Result Information

Similarity **5 %**



Exclude Information

Quotes	Excluded
References/Bibliography	Excluded
Source: Excluded < 14 Words	Excluded
Excluded Source	**0 %**
Excluded Phrases	Not Excluded

Database Selection

Language	English
Student Papers	Yes
Journals & publishers	Yes
Internet or Web	Yes
Institution Repository	Yes

A Unique QR Code use to View/Download/Share Pdf File

Excluding matches less than 14 words

Supervisor 3/4/26 Dr. Supervisor Verified

Swami Vivekananda Library and Research Centre Tandalja * Manav Rachna University *

3/4/2026

DrillBit

DrillBit Similarity Report

5	9	A
SIMILARITY %	MATCHED SOURCES	GRADE

A-Satisfactory (0-10%)
B-Upgrade (11-40%)
C-Poor (41-60%)
D-Unacceptable (61-100%)

LOCATION	MATCHED DOMAIN	%	SOURCE TYPE
1	documents1.worldbank.org	1	Publication
2	cdkn.org	1	Publication
3	interactbio.iclei.org	<1	Publication
4	www.arfjournals.com	1	Publication
9	ej-edu.org	<1	Internet Data
10	bura.brunel.ac.uk	<1	Publication
11	moam.info	<1	Internet Data
12	www.atlantis-press.com	<1	Publication
13	ijcrt.org	<1	Publication

Gpahwa Superna 3/4/26
Dr. Superna Venaik

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FOREST RIGHTS & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE: A LEGAL ANALYSIS FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE-RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MADHYA PRADESH

SHORT SYNOPSIS

by

Garima Pahwa

Registration No. MRULWDN012K240040

Under the supervision of

Name of Supervisor
Dr, Superna Venaik

MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY

Year *2025-2026*

Abstract

Indigenous Peoples' livelihood is dependent on forest and their traditional knowledge and practices. It plays a vital role in mitigation and adaptation of climate change. However, their contribution remains inadequately recognized within formal climate change governance

Netrapal Supervised 3/4/26
Dr. Supervisor

Swami Vivekanand Library and Resource Centre, Faridabad
Manav Rachna University
3/4/2026

DrillBit

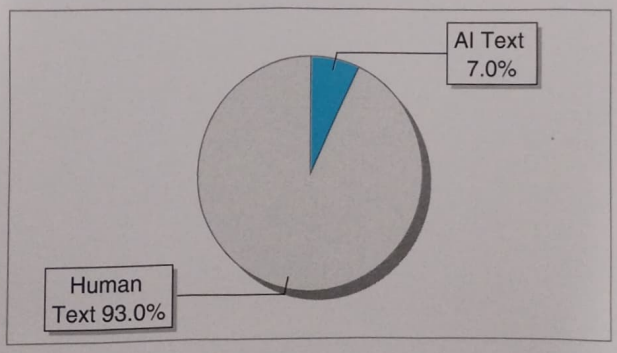
The Report is Generated by DrillBit AI Content Detection Software

Submission Information

Author Name	Garima Pahwa
Title	Short Synopsis
Paper--Submission ID	5404238
Submitted By	netrapal.library@mru.edu.in
Submission Date	2026-03-31 12:00:50
Total [Pages,Sentences,Words]	[18, 206, 4148]
Document type	Synopsis
Language	English

Result Information

AI Text: **7 %**



Disclaimer:

* The content detection system employed here is powered by artificial intelligence (AI) technology.
* Its not always accurate and only help to author identify text that might be prepared by a AI tool.
* It is designed to assist in identifying & moderating content that may violate community guidelines/legal regulations, it may not be perfect.